

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management (OWM) is responsible for providing 230 million gallons a day of drinking water to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) for distribution to 2.2 million people in 47 Commonwealth communities. The 412 billion gallon/39.4 mi<sup>2</sup> Quabbin Reservoir and the 65 billion gallon/6.5 mi<sup>2</sup> Wachusett Reservoir are the heart of this watershed system, along with water seasonally diverted from the Ware River. The Sudbury Reservoir system serves as an emergency reserve. OWM owns over 100,000 acres of land within the 466 mi<sup>2</sup> total watershed area. OWM is continually planning to maintain these reservoirs' superior water quality.

There are three critical components to the OWM planning process for each watershed. ***The Public Access Plan*** describes the management policies that allow people to recreate on OWM lands while still protecting water quality. ***The Land Management Plan*** is a thorough description of the watershed's physical features, the natural resources on OWM property, and the variety of techniques used by the agency to enhance water quality, including land protection and forest and wildlife management. ***The Watershed Protection Plan*** takes information from the Public Access Plan and Land Management Plan and integrates water monitoring findings and other studies to create an action plan that is the basis for OWM's annual work plan and budget. The Watershed Protection Plan acts as an "umbrella," encompassing all efforts by OWM that affect both public and private lands in the quest to provide the highest quality drinking water in the world.

Additional studies and reports utilized in the Watershed Protection Plan include: ***The Land Acquisition Plan***, OWM's guide to purchasing properties that are critical to long-term water quality protection; annual ***Water Quality Reports*** and basin specific ***Environmental Quality Assessments*** that identify water quality trends, link problems to sources of contamination, and develop prioritized goals for corrective actions; and ***Emergency Action Plans*** that detail the necessary steps and chain of command required in case of a catastrophe associated with the reservoirs. ***Stormwater Management***, ***Agriculture***, and ***Hazardous Materials Emergency Response*** are examples of topics that have come under special study.

Public outreach is an important element to the success of OWM's watershed protection efforts. Each plan seeks input from a variety of perspectives—such as legislatively mandated watershed advisory groups, visitors, abutters, and user interest groups—through public meetings, the press, and the DCR website. OWM supports an ongoing discourse with the public on water supply protection strategies through individual contact by OWM Watershed Rangers and interpretive staff, implementation of the Watershed Protection Act, municipal technical assistance, fact sheets, and the bi-annual newsletter *Downstream*.

This comprehensive approach to watershed planning has made it possible for MWRA to maintain a waiver from federal filtration requirements and make the Office of Watershed Management a national model. While consultants are utilized when necessary for specific expertise, the vast majority of these plans and outreach material are developed by OWM staff. The table on the reverse side provides a summary of the status of OWM's plans, including the current version, term, and history. Recent plans, fact sheets, newsletters, and other information about the Office of Watershed Management are available on-line at [www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed.htm).

# Planning for the Protection of the Metropolitan Boston Water Supply

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## Division of Water Supply Protection

### Office of Watershed Management

January 2007

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**DCR Division of Water Supply Protection**  
**Office of Watershed Management Planning Summary**

*All plans produced by OWM staff unless noted otherwise*

Type of Plan	Latest Publication	Term	Next Planned Revision	History (Consultant)
<b>Watershed Protection Plans</b>				
Quabbin Reservoir/Ware River	2000	5-8 years	2008	1991 (Rizzo)
Wachusett Reservoir	2003	5 years	2008	1991 (Rizzo) 1998 (CDM)
Sudbury Reservoir System (Emergency Reserve –Watershed Protection Plan not required)	1997	As Needed		(CEI)
<b>Land Management Plans<sup>1</sup></b>				
Quabbin Reservoir	1995	10 years	2007	1961, 1972, 1986
Ware River	2003	10 years	2013	1986
Wachusett Reservoir	2001	10 years	2011	
Sudbury Reservoir System	2005	10 years	2015	
<b>Public Access Plans</b>				
Quabbin Reservoir	2006	5-10 years	2016	1998, 1988
Ware River	2000	5-10 years	2010	1988
Wachusett Reservoir	2003	5-10 years	2013	1996
Sudbury Reservoir System	2002	5-10 years	2012	1994
<b>Other Plans and Reports</b>				
OWM Fiscal Year Work Plan	2007	1 year	2008	2005
Land Acquisition Plan <sup>2</sup>	1998	10 years	2007	
Emergency Action Plans (MWRA)	2006	Annual Review	2007	1993–1995 (GZA and GEI)
Stormwater Management	1999	As Needed		(CDM)
Agriculture	1998	As Needed		(CEI)
Highways/Railways Hazardous Material Release Control Project	1998	As Needed		(Rizzo)
Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plans	1997	As Needed		(CEI)
<b>Water Quality Reports</b>				
Annual Water Quality Report	2005	1 Year	2006	Annually since 1987
Environmental Quality Assessments (Replaced Sanitary Surveys in 2000)	2006	5 years	On-going (1 sub-basin/year)	Sanitary Surveys: 1988–2000. EQAs: 2000-present

<sup>1</sup> Cutting plans are developed annually to guide specific forestry activities.

<sup>2</sup> A list of properties is developed periodically for review by the MWRA Board of Directors.

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